



TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM

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TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

March 6, 2017

Town Administrator's reports are available on-line at <http://www.ashburnham-ma.gov>

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION UPDATES

Volunteer Openings. Currently there are openings on the following: (2) Conservation Commission, (2) Parks & Recreation Committee; (1) Board of Assessor's Member. These are listed on the Town's website under Volunteer Opportunities.

MEETINGS

AWRSD School Committee and Joint Boards Meetings. A meeting was held last week in which various budget models were presented. All parties involved will review current models and additional model requests to determine which models they are able to support and what, if any, amount would be required in an override to allow for funding.

Bresnahan Center. I had the opportunity to visit the Bresnahan Center last week and tour the new facility.

Department Head Meeting. We had a DHM today at Town Hall. We focused on procurement updates and departmental updates. The notes from today's meeting will be distributed to the Board.

MRPC Meeting. Last week I attended MRPC's monthly meeting to review the material available relative to the new Marijuana laws that went into effect in December 2016. We will continue to monitor and discuss with the Select Board at a future meeting.

Pleasant Street. Along with DPW Superintendent Steven Nims, we met with the Tri-Headmasters of Cushing and their maintenance person, Mark, to discuss Pleasant Street. Proposal is to do entire road, costing around \$100k. Project to include drainage, speed humps, and sidewalks. The current proposal is for the Town to cover \$50k and Cushing--\$50k, drainage work, and sidewalks costs. Project would take approximately 2 weeks to complete. Would be beneficial to do the project the same time as central street. (FY18). Chairs to check with board end of March/April.

Representative Board, Committee, Commission (BCC) meeting. We held our first BCC last week. We had 10 folks present along with Mary and myself and over 12 boards, committees, and commissions represented. The notes will be distributed to the Board this week and our next meeting will be in April.

Safety Initiatives Meeting. I had the opportunity to attend the AWRSD's Safety Initiative meeting last week with Police Chief Larry Barrett and Fire Chief Jack Parow. I confirmed at the meeting that both myself and Westminster's Town Administrator, Karen Murphy, have budgeted for the safety notification app in our budgets for FY18.

PERSONNEL

Morgan Emery. Morgan has been hired as a new part-time dispatcher to begin after training is complete.

PROJECTS

Green Communities Grant Application. With immense thanks to the Green Energy Committee and a special thanks to Ed Vitone, we were able to submit our application for the second round of Green Communities Grant monies last week. Our grant application and would focus on the Library's HVAC system.

MOU Gardner. Last week, along with DPW Superintendent Steve Nims and our consultant from Weston & Sampson, Tom Frost, we met with Gardner's Mayor Hawke and DPW Superintendent Dane Arnold. We reviewed Gardner's concerns relative to odor that was being caused by our sewage load, which was rectified the beginning of January by continual drip treatment. We discussed better clarification in the future contract relative to capital projects/improvements and also

discussed that we believed that our current flow limits would be sufficient well into the future. The only item to be discussed still is the length of the MOU. Gardner will draft the revised MOU and have it to us for review in April.

Sherbert Road. Winchendon has signed the letter of understanding relative to the joint project between Ashburnham and Westminster relative to Sherbert Road. Tighe & Bond will begin the boring work as soon as possible and they will begin working on the USDA application after completion of the boring work.

Health Insurance – The Health Insurance JPA (Ashburnham, Westminster, and AWRSD) meets again this week to review bid submittals and options. We have currently budgeted for 18% and preliminary figures suggest that that increase may still be too low.

Watatic Dam. DPW Superintendent, Steven Nims, and myself met with Dan from Tighe & Bond last week to discuss the Watatic Dam property. We have a revised estimate of the additional costs to conduct field research and plan preparation for the boundary surveys required for the potential conveyance of two properties, potential easement, and Title Research for ownership of Lot 12, and ground survey of the estimated 3 acres of land.

Website Revamp. We are waiting to hear back on one last plausible option, and then we would like to pursue the \$5k revamp of our website through Virtual Towns & Schools. We can consider the one-time costs to add on sub-sites such as the Police Department, and Fire Department.

On-Going Projects—*No update at this time*

- Budget FY18
- DPW Site
- Meissner Property
- Parking Main Street-Signage
- Route 101-TIP
- Visit of Liquor Establishments in Town